116, 182, 177

"Calder, Dove and Ross (?) state that the aboriginal native was much maligned, and that he was by no means the low animal he was said to be. Calder's words are (Journ. p. 19): 'It has been customary to rank the Tasmanian savages with the most degraded of the human family, and as possessed of inferior intelligence only. But facts quite disprove this idea, and show that they were naturally very intellectual, highly susceptible of culture, and, above all, most desirous of receiving instruction, which is fatal to the dogma of their incapacity for civilization... His ingenuity was seldom brought into exercise. His faculties were dormant from the mere bounty of providence. His wants were few,... and the country supplied them all in lavish abundance.' Calder, however, appears to be somewhat partial, for Tasmania is by no means what can be designated a fertile country where nature is lavish in abundance, and his opinion expressed elsewhere (Wars, pp. 54-55) is perhaps more to the point: 'An idea prevailed which has not yet died out, that they stood almost on a level with the brutes of the forest... This was not the case, for they were naturally an intellectual race, with faculties susceptible of very easy culture, as they showed when in their wild state, by the clever manner in which (after a brief association with, firstly, the half-civilized Musquito, (1) and, secondly, with some other

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"1. A ruffian quasi-civilized native of New South Wales."

domesticated blacks) they planned all their operations against the settlers, in which they seldom failed of success; and by the facility with which, when in captivity, and under good guidance, they received instruction, and accommodated them-[31]selves to European habits.'"

1: Roth--46
116, 182

(No date) 1890 Tasmanians

"Reviewing the general condition of the Tasmanian aborigines, Péron says (ch. xx. sec. i. p. 448): 'Without any form of regular government, without any special arts, without any idea of agriculture, of the use of metals, or the domestication of animals, without clothing, without any fixed habitation or retreat other than a miserable break-wind of bark, without any other weapons than the spear or club, always wandering, the inhabitant of these regions unties without doubt all the characteristics of a non-social man; he is, par excellence, the child of nature, differing how much though, both morally and physically, from the seductive pictures created for him by imagination and enthusiasm.'"

1: Roth--165-166 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 182

"The very primitive nature of the Tasmanians is perhaps best exhibited by the unartificial use they made of articles supplied them by Nature. They occasionally made use of caverns as [166] habitations (West, II. p. 82). They used large shells (Dove, I. p. 250), oyster-shells (La Billardière, II. ch. x. p. 43), and the Fucus palmatus (ibid. ch. v. p. 169; Péron, xii. p. 229), as drinking vessels. Their stone implements were of the lowest or palaeolithic character; their spears were simple sticks, having the thicker end sharpened and hardened in the fire (Backhouse, p. 90). We have also seen that their habitations were chiefly only break-winds, made of bark, and put together in the rudest fashion. Their canoes did not show much more ingenuity. It may indeed be said they made use of what Nature provided them, with the minimum amount of labour compatible with adapting them to serve their purposes.

Bunce mentions that from the rare beauty of the Boronia variabilis the natives were in the habit of naming their wives and daughters after it' (p. 26)."